

Remarks

Claims 1-40 were pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 13, 21, 22, 23, 28, and 30 are amended solely for matters of form; claims 8 and 29 are cancelled because their limitations are added to their respective independent claims; independent claim 26 is amended similarly to the other independent claims; and new claims 41-44 are presented.

Claims 1-2, 4, 6-7, 12-13, 15-16, 21, 24-28, 33, and 35-36 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by US 2,492,372 (Smith). Claims 5, 11, 22, and 32 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious in view of Smith. All other claims were indicated as allowable if amended into independent form.

In response, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 8, and claim 8 has been cancelled. Claims 2-7 and 9-20 depend on claim 1 and therefore should be allowable for the same reasons as claim 1 is allowable. Similar remarks apply to independent claim 21 and its dependent claims 22-25; and to independent claim 26 (which has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 29, which has been cancelled) and its dependent claims 27-28 and 30-40.

New claims 41-44 are presented to specifically recite the subject matter in allowable claims 3, 14, 34, and 37 in independent form. All such claims were indicated as allowable if amended to incorporate the limitations of their respective independent claims upon which each ultimately depended. This is done solely to ensure that the invention is claimed in the manner that applicant sees fit to claim it.

Other minor amendments have been made for matters of form or clarity, and not for reasons related to overcoming the scope of the prior art or other issues related to patentability on the merits.

Conclusion

In summary, there are now seven independent claims, each of which represents previously allowable dependent claims now presented in independent form. The required additional claim fees are authorized in the accompanying papers. Accordingly, all claims should be allowed. If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,



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